

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification by replacing the indicated paragraphs with the following replacement paragraphs. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1), the full text of the replacement paragraph includes markings showing all changes made.

Paragraph [0038] at page 6

Figure 2 discloses a retaining device + 100 which is similar to the exemplary embodiment of Figure 1. The arrangement of the hooks 21, 22, 23 in the device of Figure 2 differs from the hook arrangement shown in Figure 1. Two hooks 21, 22 are arranged next to each other. The hook 23 may be situated on the small side arm 12 of the metal plate, the side arm 12 being curved and thereby providing a retainer in which, for example, a gas generator can be mounted. Installation openings 4 are provided in Figure 2 for the fastening of a structural element.

Paragraph [0039] at page 6

Fig. 3 illustrates a further retaining device + 200 having two hooks 2. The retaining device + 200 has a receiving region 10 in which a component 5 is fastened via screw connections or riveted connections 5b. This receiving region 10 is of angled design.

Paragraph [0041] at page 7

Figure 4 illustrates a further refinement of an air bag retaining ring 5 50 (also referred to as a sleeve). In this case, the air bag is retained between the sleeve 5 50 and a retaining plate + 300. In addition, the sleeve 5 50 supports the gas generator and ensures that the gas flow is diverted into a preferred discharge direction. In this case, slots (not illustrated) are provided in the sleeve for the purpose of appropriately discharging the gas if triggered.

Paragraph [0042] at page 7

Figure 5 shows a side strut 6 of the backrest of a vehicle seat next to a retaining device + 400. The side strut 6 has an opening 8 and a receiving opening 7. These openings correspond in accordance with the arrows A, B to the opening 3 and the hook 2 of the retaining device +

400. The retaining device \pm 400 contains in turn additional installation openings 4 for the fastening of a structural element.

Paragraph [0043] at page 7

Following the installation of a side air bag, the retaining device can be fastened to the side strut or to the struting arrangement of the vehicle door. For this purpose, the hook 2 is inserted into the receiving opening 7 (provided for it) of the side strut 6. The retaining device \pm 400 is then locked to the side strut 6 via the corresponding openings 3, 8 by means of a screw connection or another method of fastening.

Paragraph [0044] at page 7

Fig. 8 shows an embodiment similar to the embodiment of Fig. 5. However, in Fig. 8, the retaining device 500 is arranged so that the hook 2 is pointed or directed downwards (i.e. towards the floor of the vehicle) when the retaining device \pm 500 is secured to the a side strut 6 60. The hook 2 is inserted into the receiving opening 7 along arrow A in Fig. 8. Afterwards, the retaining device \pm 500 is locked to the side strut 6 60 via corresponding openings 3, 8 by means of a screw connection or another method of fastening.

Paragraph [0045] at page 8

The securing of the retaining device \pm 500 to the side strut 6 60 with the downwardly pointing hook 2 has the advantage that there is no danger that the retaining device \pm 500 may drop off in case of shock and vibrations and if the screw connection or another fastening of openings 3, 8 becomes loose. A further advantage is that assembly of the retaining device \pm 500 is simplified as the hook 2 rests against the receiving opening 7 of side the side strut 7 during assembly holding the retaining device \pm 500 in position during fastening.

Paragraph [0046] at page 8

The retaining device may have any desired shape. In particular, the device may be formed as a planar sheet-metal element \pm . A correspondingly designed retaining device 600 is illustrated in Fig. 6. Three hooks 2 are arranged in the a sheet-metal element 1a. An opening 3 for the

screwing to a side strut, such as a side strut 60, 6 is formed on an extension 11 of the sheet-metal element 1a.

Paragraph [0047] at page 8

Figures 7a to 7e illustrate a further retaining device 700 which is designed as a planar element 1b. It has, in the edge region, an opening 3 for fastening to a motor-vehicle component and two hooks 2 which are each arranged on the edge of an essentially square punched opening 2a. A plurality of installation openings 4 are situated in a receiving region 10 which is angled in the direction of the motor-vehicle component and serves for the fastening of an air-bag module or part of an air-bag module to the retaining device 700.

Paragraph [0048] at page 8

In addition, the device + 700 has peripheral hook elements 13. The hook elements 13 are angled in the direction of the motor-vehicle component and are used for fastening a covering cap 14 to the retaining device. The covering cap corresponds in its shape to the device + 700 and has openings 15 in an angled edge region on its periphery. In the exemplary embodiment illustrated, the openings 15 are in each case formed from slots arranged in a U-shape. The slots correspond to the hook elements 13. The covering cap 14 sits on that side of the device + 700 which faces away from the motor-vehicle component.